

REMARKS

A spelling error has been corrected in the specification.

Claims 1, 12 and 16 have been amended. Claims 1-18 remain in the application.

Claims 1, 3, 4, and 7-12 have been rejected as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,592,474 to Halsworth. This rejection is traversed.

With reference to Figures 3-7 of the patent application, it can be seen that a cord 12 is connected at two points along a length of the handle, and that the handle is freely rotatable about its longitudinal axis and is freely shiftable, movable or turnable. The turnability and shiftability of the handle accommodates the movements made two a golf club (figure 3), baseball or softball bat (figures 4 and 5), tennis racket (Figure 6), football (Figure 7), or other suitable device. In each of Figures 3-7, a pulley 14 rides on the cord 12. Thus, for example, in a golf swing or batting swing, the pulley would be at one location at the start, another location in the backswing, and another location in the follow through. This is illustrated in Figures 2a-c of the application. Hence, the invention allows the user to turn his or her body to perform a swing, and allows the point where the weight or resistance is being applied to vary depending on the location of the pulley. To highlight this, claim 1 has been amended to require that the pulley is movable closer to or further from either of the two points. Similar amendments are made to claim 16.

Because the handle is rotatable about its longitudinal axis, in addition to having the location of the pulley being variable, the swing is able to be freely performed without an artificial effect of the training device.

Halsworth does not have a cord connected to the handle at two points along its length (notw the connections in Halsworth is on either side at the top of the bat, not at two points along the length). Halsworth does not have a handle that is rotatable about its longitudinal axis (because connection is at the same point on either side of the bat, the ability to roll the bat over is naturally limited by the Halsworth design). Halsworth completely lacks a pulley on the cord 18 which is moveable to different locations closer to the top or bottom of the handle (cord to cord connection at loop 20 does not allow for the sliding afforded by a pulley). As such, Halsworth doe not anticipate the claimed subject matter.

In short, Halsworth is an example of the prior art devices discussed on pages 2 and 3 of the application where the top of a bat is attached to a cable crossover resistance device. This does not allow for the same sequential muscle activity as the user would experience with a normal piece of equipment. With reference to the face page of Halsworth and page 3 of the present application, when the resistance is attached at the top of the bat and the user moves from one position to the next, the user's wrist and forearm muscles are being over worked. This has the detrimental effect of changing the user's swing.

Claim 2 has been rejected as being obvious over Halsworth in view of U.S. Patent 4,229,002 to Masters. This rejection is traversed.

The Examiner will noted that Masters shows a single point of contact at 29 for the golf attachment. Thus, Masters has the same problems discussed in detail above with respect to Halsworth, and fails to make up for any of its deficiencies.

Claim 5 has been rejected as being obvious over Halsworth in view of U.S. Patent 5,303,927 to Perry. This rejection is traversed.

As the Examiner recognizes, Perry does not show a device connected to a resistance device. In fact, in Perry, the training device is not even connected to the handle of the golf club. As such, Perry cannot make up for any of the deficiencies of Halsworth.

Claim 6 has been rejected as being obvious over Halsworth in view of U.S. Patent 5,478,079 to Liberatore. This rejection is traversed.

Like Masters and Halsworth, Liberatore shows connection to a single point at the end of the club. Thus, Liberatore does not make up for the deficiencies of Halsworth and no combination of the two references would make the claimed invention obvious.

Claims 13-18 have been rejected as being obvious over Halsworth in view of Oppenheimer. This rejection is traversed.

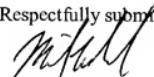
In Oppenheimer, the slider is connected only to the end of the golf club. Thus, Oppenheimer suffers from the same problems as Halsworth. Moreover, in Oppenheimer, the slider is not affixed to move along a cord closer to or further from different points along the length of the handle. In view of this, no combination of Halsworth and Oppenheimer make the claimed invention obvious

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the application be

reconsidered, that claims 1-18 be allowed, and that the application be passed to issue.

Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic or personal interview.

A provisional petition is hereby made for any extension of time necessary for the continued pendency during the life of this application. Please charge any fees for such provisional petition and any deficiencies in fees and credit any overpayment of fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-2041.

Respectfully submitted,

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